

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 65

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Campbell "Bill" Hilleary of Spring City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Campbell "Bill" Hilleary, a devoted public servant who loved his God, his family, his country, his community, and his alma mater, the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hilleary was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, where his parents had relocated from their Rhea County home to seek opportunity; and

WHEREAS, after his mother's death when Bill was but an infant, the family moved back to Spring City, where Bill Hilleary resided for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hilleary graduated from Spring City High School in the midst of World War II and subsequently joined the U.S. Army Air Corps; he trained as a flight engineer, was honorably discharged at the end of the war, and later served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve; and

WHEREAS, after leaving military service, Mr. Hilleary studied industrial management at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UT-K); one memorable summer during his college days, he and two close friends worked in railroad and bridge construction in what was then the Territory of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from UT-K in 1949, Bill Hilleary joined his father at Southern Silk Mills, where he worked from 1949 until 1978; in 1982, he founded SSM Industries, which he served as a dynamic leader well into his eighties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hilleary distinguished himself in many public roles during his bountiful life, including service as a church elder, Boy Scout scoutmaster, trustee of Bryan College, board member of Rhea Medical Center, justice of the peace, member of the Rhea County Quarterly Court, board member of the Friends of the Library of Spring City, and state committeeman of the Tennessee Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Spring City and a member of the New Beginnings Church in Spring City at the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, Bill Hilleary was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-six years, Evelyon Vanderpool Hilleary; his father William Hilleary; his mother Bertha Campbell Hilleary; and his stepmother, Sarah Neil Hilleary ; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable gentleman is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, former U.S. Congressman Van (Meredith) Hilleary, Brent (Meg) Hilleary, and Scott (Debbie) Hilleary; daughter and son-in-law, Allison (Phil) Chandler; grandchildren, Laura, Susanna, Ginny, and Campbell Hilleary, Alex Hilleary, Joseph Hilleary, Millie (Brian) Williams, Parker Hilleary, Rebecca (Brandon) Heath, Drew Hilleary, Tyler (Amanda) Chandler, and Hilleary Chandler; great-granddaughter, Jenna Chandler; nephew, Jack (Phyllis) Vanderpool; niece, Brenda (Mark) Monks; and special friends, Nick and Renee Shipley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hilleary leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William Campbell "Bill" Hilleary, reflecting fondly upon his numerous contributions to Spring City, Rhea County, and this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hilleary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.